

Chair, Senator Debby Barrett and members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, my name is Richard E. Grady, a private citizen whose family has a ranch northwest of Helena, providing written comments in support of Senate Bill 233 sponsored by Senator Jim Keane.

I attended the Jobs Listening Session on January 8, 2011 and the private sectors input on improving the extraction of our natural resources in the areas of mining, agriculture, oil and gas, along with timber on private ownership, and too be in compliance on the various permitting requirements under MEPA.

I have a question too the committee on what is the definition of a not state-sponsored project?

Second question is under the wording within the bills wording:

Under (e) A permit, license, lease, or other authorization issued by an agency is valid, and may not be enjoined, voided, nullified, revoked, modified, or suspended pending the completion of an environmental review that may be remanded by a court.

And then under (iii) a project or activity authorized by a state agency acting in a land management capacity for a lease, easement, license, or other authorization to act.

Would you not want to add both the word permit and easement under (e) also under (iii) ?

**General Comments:**

The family ranch over the years has worked with oil and gas companies, mining companies, along with state agencies regarding the permitting process when these companies have secured agreements too utilized the ranch properties for exploration.

In the proposed bill, there is a word identified as mitigate, which I find very important regarding landowners relationship with a private company and the ability to work with the state agencies on MEPA compliance.

I have attached some colored photopoints regarding the working relationship that was established between Newmount Exploration Ltd under Exploration License No. 00323 known as the Pikes Gulch Project, in Lewis and Clark County between 1993- 1996 regarding mineral exploration on the family ranch working with the state agency to be in compliance with MEPA.

That working relationship was based on trust, face to face communications with the family in my parents home kitchen table, the state agencies with on site visits to listen to the concerns of the family, and mitigate the work that Newmount Exploration LTd was proposing and be able to meet their objectives of the license. After the cyanide leaching referendum was passed by the voters, Newmount Exploration Ltd realized the future of mining in the state and completed the exploration work on the property.

Today, the surrounding area is being impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle and Spruce budworm, with a very limited or no timber market to address the issues with a declining timber industry and is also affected by adjacent National Forest ownership with no forest management practices being implemented and the issues of NEPA.

I thank-you for your time allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 233

*Richard E. Grady*  
Richard E. Grady

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406-368-2308

# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

June 25, 1996

Mr. Dale Finn  
Newmont Exploration Ltd.  
PO Box 5133  
Helena, Montana 59604-5133

RE: Exploration License No. 00323  
Pikes Gulch Project, Lewis & Clark County

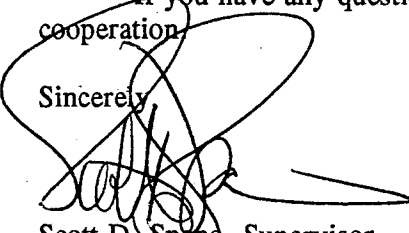
Dear Dale:

On 24 June 1996, I completed a final bond release inspection at the above-referenced project area, accompanied by Bob Cronholm. As a result of that inspection, full bond release of the remaining \$10,607.00 has been granted. A couple of the sites were a bit sparse in terms of vegetation, but there was ample evidence that the cattle had been hitting these areas hard, a situation that is beyond Newmont's control. Although a bit sparse, there were plenty of plants growing on these areas, so, depending on cattle usage in these areas, there is a good probability that complete coverage will be attained by the end of this growing season. The other reclaimed areas looked very good, and I saw no signs of noxious weeds anywhere on site.

Since Pikes Gulch was the last remaining project covered under Exploration License No. 00323 and Newmont's \$100,000.00 statewide blanket bond (Letter of Credit #A-304870), both the license and the bond may now be canceled. Of course, you may choose to keep the license active and the bond in place for future projects in Montana. Please let us know your intentions regarding this matter.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 406-444-4955. I appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Scott D. Spano, Supervisor  
Exploration Section  
Hard Rock Bureau

c: Warren McCullough  
Brea Ackerman  
Toni Meyering  
Rick Grady, Canyon Creek, MT 5963 3

f:\usr\cb8287\pikesgul.exp



Identified Archaeologist  
 Site - SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
 Section 34 T13N R14W

Re claimed Trench with Certified  
 Noxious weed Free Straw



New Grass  
 Seedlings



Newmont Exploration Ltd  
 Exploration License  
 No. 00323

Pikes Gulch  
 Project

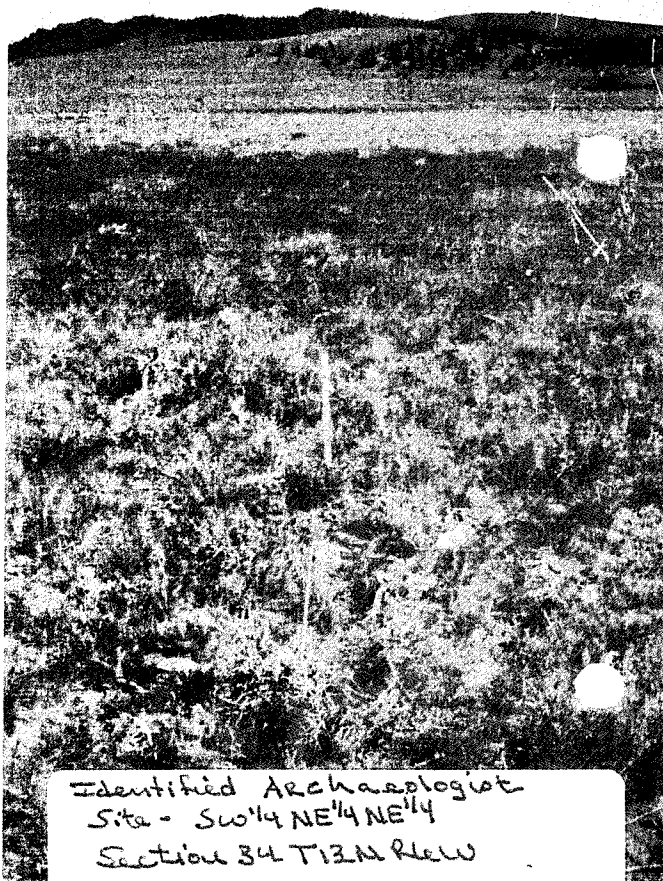
Lewis + Clark  
 County

12-5-94



Topsoil

TRENCH G  
 Looking NE



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No. 00323

Pikes Gulch  
Project  
Lewis + Clark  
County

